

Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project

Public Meeting Notice

Monday, March 15, 2004
6 p.m. – 9 p.m.
Red Bluff Community and Senior Center
1500 South Jackson, Westside Room
Red Bluff, CA

The Bureau of Reclamation, the lead Federal agency; the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, a cooperating Federal agency; and the State Water Resources Control Board, the lead State agency, have scheduled a public meeting to discuss the Battle Creek Salmon and Steelhead Restoration Project (Restoration Project).

The proposed CALFED-supported Restoration Project would restore approximately 42 miles of habitat in Battle Creek and an additional 6 miles of habitat in its tributaries, while minimizing the loss of clean and renewable energy produced by the Battle Creek Hydroelectric Project owned and operated by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Purpose of Meeting:

The purpose of the meeting is to present and discuss the incremental biological benefit, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) uncertainties, and schedule and process impacts associated with the removal of eight dams below the natural barriers (Alternative B), and to compare this information to Draft EIS/EIR Proposed Action Alternative information. Following the presentation, open discussion and feedback is encouraged.

Format of Meeting:

Presentation followed by open discussion and feedback.

Next Steps:

A summary of this meeting will be prepared and based on the information received, recommendations regarding further consideration of the removal of eight dams below the natural barriers (Alternative B) will be discussed at the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee Meeting on March 25, 2004.

Background:

A Review of Economic Methodology and Results was presented at a CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Subcommittee Meeting on January 15, 2004. The presentation discussed the economics associated with the alternatives in the Restoration Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR), as well as partial and full decommissioning of the Battle Creek Hydroelectric Project (Hydroelectric Project). The presentation indicated that based solely on economics, the Proposed Action Alternative in the EIS/EIR (removal of five dams, and screens and ladders on three dams below the natural barriers on North and South Fork Battle Creek) and partial decommissioning of the Hydroelectric Project (removal of eight dams [all dams] below the natural barriers, presented as Alternative B) were not substantially different in overall cost. After the presentation, discussions indicated that in addition to economics, Alternative B would be examined for (1) incremental biological benefits as compared to the Draft EIS/EIR Proposed Action Alternative, (2) development of a new Memorandum of Understanding, including uncertainties (i.e., power replacement and water right dedication to the environment in perpetuity, and public share of overall cost), and (3) schedule and process impacts.